transfusion of blood, as possible carriers of AIDS. Upto 31-10-1988 altogether, 1,66,566 persons have been screened of which 532 have been confirmed to have AIDS infection. Out of these 532 cases, 25 persons have developed full blown disease. Of these 25 cases, 9 were foreigners and 16 Indians. Of the 16 Indians, 4 are indigenous cases and the remaining contracted the infection during their stay abroad.

Super Computer for Prime Minister's Office

2155. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations for the Super Computer for use in the Prime Minister's Office have been made with any foreign country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, whether any negotiations have been concluded with any foreign country for installation of Super Computers in other than Prime Minister's Office; and

(d) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Negotiations were conducted with M|s. Control Data Corporation, United States of America, Crap Research Inc., USA and NEC, Japan for acquisition of a Super Computer for climatological and meteorological data archiving, analysis, modelling and forecasting. A duly constituted committee negotiated and recommended the purchase of Cray XMP|14. The system is in the process of being installed in Delhi

Acquisition of another Super Computer is being negotiated with a number of companies in USA and Japan for installation at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for climatological modelling, molecular biology, design of engineering structures and many other civilian applications of national interest.

Appointment of S|C Judges in High Courts

2156. SHRI OM PRAKASH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Scheduled Castes Judges presently appointed in the various High Courts in the country as against the vacancies (to be shown separately) and what are the reasons for not filling up the vacancies; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government so far to fill up these vacancies and by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement. [See Appendix CXLVIII, Annexure No. 98]

Selection of judges involves deliberation in consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities and is a continuous process. The Government has made all possible efforts to expedite the consultations. It is, however, not possible to indicate any definite date by which the vacancies will be filled.

Viral Genes Developed by National Institute of Virology, Pune

2157. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Viral Genes has recently been developed by the scientists at the National Institute of Virology, Pune;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how far it has been found successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) Scientists at the National Institute of Virology, Pune are working on Viral Genetics and have cloned pieces of Chikungunya virus in the bacterium Escherechia Coli. The study is in its initial phase and cloning has been successful.

Singur Irrigation Project

2158. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Singur irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh has been transferred to Planning Commission for clearance vide Central Water Commission letter No. 6/88/86-PA (S) dated the 6th July, 1988;

(b) if so, whether the project is pending with the Planning Commission for clearance; and

(c) when was the first project report sent to Central Government by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and when the said project had been considered and found acceptable by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission and what was the updated estimate of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission recevied the request for formal clearance of the undated estimate of singur Project from Central Water Commission on 21-7-1988. In reply to this the Planning Commission requested Central Water Commission to take into account all pending factors including stipulations by Department of Environment and Forest and prepare a supplementary note for clearance by the Advisory Committee. The project has been subsequently recommended by the Advisory Committee for investment clearance which will be processed by the Planning Commission after the stipulations by the Department of Environment and Forest are complied with.

(c) The Singur project was first received in the Central Water Commission from Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1975. Comments on various aspects of the project including Inter-State aspects, Hydrology cost allocation between water supply and Irrigation were under correspondence with the State between 1975 and 1984 and after protracted correspondence as well as on finalisation of inter State agreement, the project was put up to Advisory Committee which found it techno-economically viable on 3.9.1984 subject to certain conditions. However, in the meanwhile the State Government submitted to Central Water Commission on 7-4.1986 a revised estimate for Rs 89.40 crores which has now been updated to Rs. 104.36 crores by Central Water Commission. The same has been found techno-economically viable at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee held on 25.10.1988. The Central Water Commission has now been advised that only after the stipulations of the Ministry of Environment and Forest have been complied with, the Planning Commission will be in a position to process the project for investment clearance.

Marketing of Banned Estrogen and Progestrone Drugs

2159. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that Estrogened Progestrone (EP) drug continues to be sold in the open market despite the fact that the drug was banned on June 15, 1988; and